

IN THE CLAIMS

Please delete claims 1 – 13.

Please add new claims 14 – 20, as indicated below.

1 - 13. (canceled)

14. A method of a encoding data word, comprising:
scrambling a data word to generate a scrambled data word; and
encoding the scrambled data word so that a first occurrence of said scrambled data word is
 encoded to produce a first code word, and a subsequent occurrence of said scrambled
 data word is encoded to produce a second code word,
wherein said second code word is different from said first code word.

15. The method of claim 14,
wherein said scrambling generates a plurality of predetermined output patterns with
 predetermined probabilities, and
wherein each of said plurality of predetermined output patterns has associated with it a
 respective plurality of different code words.

16. The method of claim 14,
wherein said scrambling generates other scrambled data words for other data words,
wherein said encoding produces other code words from said other scrambled data words,
 and
wherein each of said first code word and said second code word is unique with respect to
 said other code words.

Preliminary Amendment

17. The method of claim 16, wherein said first code word has a complement that is unique with respect to said other code words.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said second code word has a complement that is unique with respect to said other code words.

19. The method of claim 18, wherein said complements of said first and second code words are unique with respect to complements of said other code words.

20. The method of claim 14, wherein said encoding is a block encoding.